

**Notice of Allowability**

Applicati n No.

09/425,804

Examiner

Stephanie Zitomer

Applicant(s)

GORENSTEIN ET AL.

Art Unit

1634

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response and amendment filed May 20, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-17 and 40-57.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 October 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.
5. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.  
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
5 ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. 8/12/03  
7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
6 ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment  
8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  
9 ☐ Other

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Edwin Flores on September 9, 2003.

#### **The claims have been amended as follows:**

Nonelected claims 1-14 and 18-39 have been canceled.

In claim 15, a), "identified by" has been changed to --having a nucleotide sequence of--.

In claim 15, b), "in accordance with the" has been changed to --having the nucleotide--

In claim 15, parts c) and d) have been cancelled.

In claim 16, "identified by" has been changed to --having--.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The closest prior art is Sharma et al. (Anticancer Research, Vol. 16, pages 61-70, 1996) which is discussed in applicant's specification. The reference discloses a transcription factor decoy (TFD) comprising a double stranded phosphorothioate

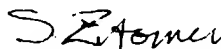
Art Unit: 1634

oligonucleotide containing the binding sequence of the complex protein transcription factor, NF- $\kappa$ B/Rel, a regulator of tumor cell growth. Technically, the reference TFD is not an aptamer in that it was not obtained by the methods known in the art for identifying aptamers as set forth in the specification although the TFD oligonucleotide was shown to bind NF- $\kappa$ B/Rel thereby inhibiting its binding to the natural DNA binding site in the same manner as applicant's aptamers, SEQ ID NOS:30-39, bind the protein. However, applicant's aptamers differ in sequence from that of the reference TFD. Furthermore, applicant's aptamers represent an improvement over the TFD of Sharma et al. in that they are partially thiolated in contrast to the fully thiolated TFD. Applicant's partially thiolated aptamers solve the problem of nonspecific binding of the fully thiolated TFD noted by Sharma et al. in the penultimate sentence of the reference. Therefore, the claimed invention is novel and nonobvious over the prior art of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephanie Zitomer whose telephone number is (703) 308-3985. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm until September 26, 2003 when the examiner will be retiring from the Office..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W. Gary Jones, can be reached on (703) 308-1152. The official fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4242. The unofficial fax number is (703) 308-8724. The examiner's Rightfax number is 703-746-3148.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196. For questions and requests relating to formal matters contact LIE Chantae Dessau at 703-605-1237.

  
Stephanie Zitomer, Ph.D.  
September 12, 2003

**STEPHANIE W. ZITOMER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**